



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

November 2000

Year 2000 Directory

The year 2000 member Directory is out and is posted on our Home Page at www.qcwa.org. This is in a format known as .pdf and is read by a program called Acrobat. If you do not have Acrobat on your computer, better get it for more and more things are coming in this format.

Basically the Directory is in three sections. The first section is the current Board of Directors, a list of the founders and the Constitution and By-laws. The second section lists the call areas and includes a section on our foreign members. The third section lists all those who have received scholarships from the beginning of the program up to the present time.

In the call areas, you are able to use a search icon to find a particular call in that section. The icon is a pair of binoculars at the top of the screen. Click on that and a menu appears asking what you wish to find. A caution when using the ZERO area calls file. We have slashed all the zeros in that section and so when you wish to look up a zero call; you have to do it specially. The slash zero is 'Alt 0216', so you have to type that in when doing a search in the zero section.

Chapter Report

We are coming to the December time frame when we make a list of the members that we show as belonging to your Chapter and then print and mail that list along with the Chapter Report to each of the Chapter Secretaries.

This report goes into making a list of all our active Chapters, listing each in their State and showing the current Secretary and their address. This little brochure is furnished to each new member so that they may get together with a nearby Chapter if at all possible.

Some of you are very good about telling us of silent keys in your area, and on the report please list them so we can double check that list. We need the current President and Secretary and their calls, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Check the list and if there are members who have dropped out of your Chapter, make a list for us so we can delete their affiliation with your chapter. List new members that are not on the list and we will so mark their records in the data base.

This year, we will probably list only the active members. In the past we have included delinquent members in the hopes of getting some of them back into the group.

"CARE" packages

I have called your attention to this in the past, but with a new crop of officers in our midst it is time to repeat the story.

Upon request, we can ship a package of material for a hamfest that you will attend and operate at a booth. It is a fun thing, a lot of work sometimes, but it is also very productive for your Chapter and the National Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.

In this CARE package are applications, T-Shirt brochures and order forms, QSL card & Name tag order forms. Also included are embroidered patches and decals for you to sell for us. A big bunch of Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. Journals and then some registration forms to use at the table along with a finance package and receipt book.

There is no cost to your Chapter. You order in time for us to ship via UPS to you and when the event is over you return some of the supplies along with any unsold materials and the revenue from any sales. Can not be any easier and really helps at the booth.

Having a presence at these affairs is some of the best publicity we can receive. You may not sign up everyone you meet, but down the road they remember and will come to you to join in the fellowship.

VISA/Master Card

A reminder, we now handle payments with these two cards. This has been going for about a year and with some very good results for all concerned.

A side issue in this has been to facilitate our orders with people overseas and in Canada. It has been especially difficult with our German friends with orders lost and money missing. Now everything goes through in short order.

We do not solicit orders on our home page because it is just not secure enough for you to give us your ID numbers for the two cards. That part can be done via a phone call or a letter and some have even done it with an e-mail.

It is quite a bit of extra work, here at the office, but it does provide a quick and efficient way of ordering and paying for some services.



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

New Caps

For some time now we have been supplying a plastic white and blue cap with a Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. logo silk-screened on the front. When those are gone there will be no more.

In its place we now have a very nice twill cap with an embroidered logo on the front. It is tan with a dark blue bill. The adjusting band in the back is Velcro and so far has fit almost every head we have tried. We introduced them at Dayton last year and they have been well received. Shortly we will have a picture in the Journal.

The price is \$15.00 including US postage and slightly higher for foreign members. They should be very durable and last for a long time.

Your Chapter Reports

We receive two types of reports, for the Journal, one is hard copy and the other is a file of the report sent by e-mail as an attachment.

On the e-mail copy of the reports, if you can make a .txt file of that report save it and transmit it as an 'attachment' to us via e-mail. When you name this file use your chapter number such as "Chap108.txt" and send that file. So many make long file names and it is getting so we are seeing names almost the same and end up having to rename the file to keep it intact. Long names are OK, but they are not for this kind of work. The name should identify the file and what better way than if you use the word "chap" and your chapter number? In this manner we know the contents of each file and how to handle it.

If you send us hard copy, please send only the copy and do not send us a page embellished with a Chapter Logo at the top or a picture as part of the text. We do not print what you send us in the same format. If there is a picture as part of your report, make it a separate item. Please caption the pictures, telling us whom it is we are seeing for the first time.

Sending Photos

I would like to call your attention to the transmittal of photos for publication in the Journal. Of late we have had several instances of getting prints made from color printers and they are just not adequate to be scanned and placed in the Journal. Our editor has been tearing his hair trying to get a good scan so it will look correct when placed in the Journal. Please, send us only regular photos or files of digital camera pictures.

When using a digital format, check the physical size of that picture. Not only the physical size, but the print size and the resolution of the file. If you reduce the print size down to maybe 3X4 inches, and then reduce the resolution to 72, it makes for a much smaller file (transmits quicker) and is perfectly good for reproduction in the Journal. Most all PhotoShop type of programs will let you make these changes to your digital file. Again,

however, look for crisp, sharp pictures and they will reproduce very well. For those that have been doing it this way, our thanks to you and keep it up.

In the last HLR I mentioned a Chapter that had a great newsletter but their pictures were not all that great. I am happy to inform you that they now have a better way to do their newsletter and the photos are absolutely wonderful. This trend seems to be making headway among those Chapters that produce a newsletter. The existence of a newsletter, that is well done, seems to be an adhesive that helps holds that chapter together.

Digital cameras, computers and decent printers are all available and at some pretty reasonable prices. There are a number of good publication programs and you can always use your word processor to turn out good publications.

Why all of this ?

We would like to get the Journal out quicker and with less handling of material that go into the make-up of the publication. Changing what you send us can be time consuming and it will help if some of the suggestions are followed that preceded this item.

One other thing to consider. When naming files, suppose you have a chapter report and a picture to send to us. Following the suggestions you would name the report "Chap108.txt" and the picture would be "Chap108.jpg". No chance of these getting mixed with someone else's report, and they do not conflict with each other for they have different suffixes.

If we can improve handling substantially we can, in all probability, cut down on the delay between the deadline for submission of material and the actual printing of the Journal. Many of you find that your meeting date's conflict with the time of submission and this will help you in that aspect of scheduling.

In checking the list of Chapters submitting material, there are a number who have just not participated. For one or more reasons they have decided that it is maybe too much trouble or they have not discovered one of their members who would gladly take over this chore and give the Chapter some well earned publicity. Everyone in a Chapter has the ability to contribute, let us use that ability.

A Chapter report for the Journal should not be just a routine statement of a meeting of the Chapter. Tell about something interesting and unique about the group. What do you do that others might like to hear about and adopt for their own chapter? The sharing of your activities are always welcomed by others.

Did you read about the tail gate swap meets organized by one of our Chapters? They are still at it, and others have followed and are having a lot of fun and meeting many new people.



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

Endowment News

A new program for Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. is the endowment fund. Information has been written about this in the past, but it is time to tell you about what is happening.

One of our members left his radio estate to the fund. Arrangements were made with a club in the area to remove a tower and beam and to inventory all of his equipment. Among his collection was a "spy radio" as he called it and he used it behind the enemy lines to teach people how to use it to communicate with the allies. It operated on 80 and 40 meters, phone and CW and even had a tiny key recessed in the case, which could be pulled into position to operate. Interestingly enough, there were no indications as to whom the manufacturer might be.

Rather than let this go into the hands of the amateur radio operators we started a search on the Internet for a suitable museum to whom we could entrust this piece of equipment. What a search that turned out to be. Finally, a fax was sent to the CIA and a reply came forth very promptly from the curator of their museum. They wanted this for their collection and knew all about the gear. The radio gear was packed and shipped to them. The curator has promised a picture of the display and an article as soon as it is prepared for viewing. We included some of his QSL cards to identify the donor in the display.

A number of individuals have contributed to this fund and their names are listed in the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. Journal.

We had one other piece of equipment donated, it was sold at a hamfest and those monies deposited into the account of the Endowment Fund. Very shortly we will have some pamphlets describing this fund and they will be mailed to each of the Chapters. This program in no way conflicts with the Memorial Scholarship Fund and provides a way to handle contributions that are different.

Toronto

The recent convention held in Toronto was a great success with a pretty fair attendance. The BOD meeting was held on Thursday and this gave time for everyone to get acquainted and to meet other people in attendance.

At this BOD meeting we had five new BOD members. Our new Treasurer was confined at home with a bad foot injury so he was not able to enjoy the meeting. A number of items of business were discussed and some motions were made and passed to carry our operations during the next year period. All of the actions further strengthened the QCWA organization.

For the year 2001 there will be 16 memorial Scholarships awarded, all in the amount of \$1000.00 continuing the plan from last year.

At the banquet on Saturday evening the Host Chapter #73 formally changed their name of the Chapter to Fred Hammond Chapter #73. On Sunday we were invited to view the wonderful radio museum that Fred established before his death. Following that visit we had lunch and then went to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. What memories were brought back to many of our members.

It was a great convention and please pay attention to the material on the Radio Cruise for next Fall with QCWA. A number have signed for the cruise and it promises to be fun and educational.

News from Chapters

One thing that we have not mentioned for some time is the material for the Journal under Chapter News.

We do not take material from your Newsletters and modify it for publication in the Journal. You need to write that specially and point out things that your Chapter is doing and that others might be interested in reading. They do not need a routine Chapter report of the last meeting. Explain some of the neat things that you do and people enjoy. Toot your own horn about your activities.

If you can come up with a good, sharp picture we would love to add that to your material and others enjoy seeing some of those members they have perhaps talked to in the past. New officers of the Chapter, a special event that can be publicized .. all of these topics are great for a picture. Give us a good print, or if you have a digital camera, send us a file if it is a good picture.

I receive a lot of chapter newsletters and in checking, not all of these people are sending in Chapter Reports for the Journal.

Last but not Least

At the recent Board of Directors meeting we discussed the cost problems with various companies to produce CD ROMS of our membership Directory. There is a solution and the BOD approved the idea.

We can now produce those CDs locally and the cost will be \$10 including the postage. Keep in mind that the CD demands a computer running the Acrobat program. The Directory is as of June 30, 2000 and right now I think we can update it every year.

Basically the call areas would have to be updated, and if there were any minor changes in the first or third section of the Directory those can be handled as well at that time. In that manner you can have a Directory that is current as of that June date, each year.

73, Jim, W7LVN

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOC., INC.
159 E 16th Ave, Eugene OR 97401-4017

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Eugene, OR
Permit NO. 420